

Preventing condensation and damp in your home



What's condensation and what are the signs?

Condensation on windows can lead to issues with dampness and mould, posing significant risks to both your property and your well-being. This helpful guide offers practical solutions to help you effectively identify and address condensation, ensuring a healthier and safer living environment for you and your family.

Understanding condensation

- Condensation is water droplets forming on cold surfaces, like windows, when warm, moist air contacts them.
- This is common in winter due to increased indoor heating and modern insulation trapping moist air. It can occur in kitchens, laundry areas, and bathrooms.
- Persistent condensation can result in black mould on window frames and walls.



Top tip

Remember to dry any condensation promptly. Use a squeegee or old towel to mop up excess water, especially on wooden or fabric surfaces to prevent damage.

Types of condensation

- Interior condensation: suggests poor ventilation inside your home.
- Exterior condensation: shows your double-glazing is effective, caused by cold outdoor air meeting warm windows.
- Between panes: implies double-glazing failure; likely due to broken seals, requiring window replacement.

- Improve insulation, this keeps your home above dew point, reducing condensation. Upgrading to double or triple-glazing windows also helps.
- Moderate heating: instead of rapidly increasing the heating, set your boiler to a lower temperature for longer periods. Keep doors closed in used rooms and maintain a consistent thermostat setting throughout the house.

Quick fixes to stop condensation

- Keep lids on pans and dry your washing outside when possible. Plants can also add moisture, so consider their impact.
- Ensure good ventilation by leaving windows open when you're home. Open windows while cooking or using the bathroom to let out excess steam.
- Install extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom, as these rooms generate the most moisture.
- If extractor fans aren't enough, consider a dehumidifier. It's portable and can be moved to where it's needed most, like near drying clothes or in the bedroom at night.

Long-term solutions

- Improve ventilation: install airbricks in external walls and air vents in internal walls. Add roof ventilation tiles and window vents to increase airflow and reduce condensation.
- Install a Heat Recovery System: this system can reduce condensation through dehumidification and temperature regulation.

